

# PLAYBILL

THE HOWARD PLAYERS PRESENT...

*The*  
**8X10  
PLAY  
FESTIVAL**

*premiering digitally*

SATURDAY & SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 7-8 | 7:30PM

THEHOWARDPLAYERS.ORG



Howard Players

# 8x10 Play Festival

*premiering digitally*

Hosted by  
Ricky Ramón

Featured Artists

HALO  
Altitude12  
Eli Tsunami  
Baýbe Blazë

Covid-19 Note

All 8x10 Play Festival participants adhered to strict social distancing protocols. All involved in productions with in-person elements tested negative for the Covid-19 virus.

## PRODUCERS

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Autumn Angelettie  
Lo Williams

## CHIEF EDITOR

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Jaida Gillespie

## PRODUCTION

## COORDINATOR

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Kameron Harris

## TECHNICAL

## DIRECTOR

---

Da'Neisha Ligon

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# Run of Show

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## REHEARSAL

*by Jaucqir LaFond*

## TAN

*by Kiara Martinez*

## CRUNCH

*by Jade Madison Scott*

## revolution: an antilogy

*by Autumn Angelettie*

## INTERMISSION

## Rebirth of

*by Christian Ellis*

## 3 - 2 - 3

*by Lauren Smith*

## And Then There Were None

*by Lo Williams*

## The Guy

*by Curtis Melrose*

# A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

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## What is the 8x10 Play Festival?

Founded in 2018 by Maya Louise Shed, the Howard Players' 8x10 Play Festival is designed to provide playwrights on the campus of Howard University with the opportunity to put a selected portion of their work on display. The annual festival features eight (8) ten (10) minute original plays or selections from original plays by Howard students. By receiving feedback from students and other artists, playwrights are able to hone their skills and further their craft. Artists of all disciplines collaborate to create the complete 8x10 Festival experience. Each year, three winning playwrights are selected by audience vote and a judging panel, and winners are afforded further opportunities to enhance their craft.

This year, for the first time ever, the 3rd Annual 8x10 Play Festival has been pre-recorded for a Digital Premiere on the Howard Players website, [TheHowardPlayers.org](http://TheHowardPlayers.org).

Please be advised the 8x10 Play Festival includes

Mature Content such as:

Coarse Language, Discussion of Police Brutality,  
Themes of Depression, and Depicted Death.



# ON AFROFUTURISM

## *A Note From the Producers*

The Howard Players Board selected *Afrofuturism* to be the guiding theme of the 8x10 Play Festival this year in order to engage, uplift, and encourage the Black theatre community to continue creating, even amidst the circumstances of our current time.

Afrofuturism is the reimagining of a future filled with arts, science, and technology seen through a Black lens. It is an artistic movement in our music, theatre, film, fashion, literature, and more. As we look toward an uncertain future, what can we imagine for ourselves?

Playwrights were encouraged to write plays suited for the screen, as rehearsals and filming took place across the globe. Playwrights crafted characters that transcend human abilities, identity, and even time. These plays not only discuss experiences across the Black diaspora, but also call attention to a future we need: one with healthcare, transformative justice, and global unity. After a virtual casting process, directors crafted innovative and creative ways to rehearse and record each piece. We are grateful for their ingenuity.

The execution of this festival was not an easy task, and we especially thank the Howard Players Board for their continued talent, dedication, and unyielding efforts in service of the Howard Players.

# REHEARSAL

**Two students meet for a rehearsal and explore their characters' relationship all while defining their own.**



Jaucqir LaFond, he/they (Playwright & Director) is a junior Acting major and Classical Voice minor from Atlanta, GA. *REHEARSAL* is the first piece Jaucqir has written and directed, and they are thankful for this opportunity to work with the Howard Players. Enjoy the show!



Jazmine Mangrum, she/her (Stage Manager) is a freshman Acting major from Frederick, MD. This is her first time being a part of the Howard Players 8x10 Play Festival. Jazmine is grateful to be a part of a production with so many talented people.



Sophia Early, she/her (Jackie) is a graduating senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Sykesville, MD. She is very excited to participate in her second Howard Players 8x10 Play Festival! Sophia would like to thank her directors and the amazing playwrights that trusted her with their work.



Daks McClettie, he/him (Ken) is a junior Acting Major from Charlotte, North Carolina. This is his third time participating in the 8x10 Play Festival, although last year he was a writer/director. He also enjoys making music and playwriting.

# TAN

**A social worker arrives at a secluded home after a young woman vanishes, leaving her two younger siblings behind, and tries to piece together the events that caused this unexpected—and perhaps illegal—disappearance.**



## **Kiara Martinez, she/her (Playwright & Director)**

is a junior Theatre Technology major, Playwriting and English minor from Atlanta, Georgia. She has had the pleasure of participating in three Howard Players productions with this being her second directing and first playwriting credit.



## **Gabrielle Rice, she/her (Stage Manager)**

is a sophomore, first-year BFA Musical Theatre major from Abu Dhabi, UAE who currently lives in Tokyo, Japan. She is overjoyed for her first production as a Stage Manager and feels extremely blessed to have this opportunity.



## **Lyric Burnett, she/her (Honey)**

is a sophomore Legal Communications major, Theatre Arts minor from Raleigh, North Carolina. This is her first semester as a member of The Howard Players and she is extremely grateful for this opportunity.



## **Camryn Sherer, she/her (Bay)**

Camryn Sherer is a junior Acting student from Durham, North Carolina. This is her third Howard Players production. She looks forward to furthering her journey as an artist and thank her mother, Sonya, and her family for their continued support.



## **Donte' Bynum, he/him (Troy)**

is a junior Acting major from Bowie, MD. This is his third performance in a Howard Players production. He wants to thank God for guiding him on this path and his family and friends for always being there for him.



## **Di'Jhon Elexis, she/her (Otu)**

is a graduating senior Acting major from New Haven, Connecticut. She is elated to be a part of the Howard Players 8x10 Play Festival. She thanks God for this opportunity and dedicates this show to her supportive family and friends.

# CRUNCH

**Two wives struggle to find funding in their monthly budget for one of their mother's expensive cancer treatment.**



**Jade Madison Scott, she/her (Playwright)**

is a writer, producer, and director from Tampa, FL. She is the proud owner of WGC Productions. She is thankful for the production team and Howard Players for allowing her work to come to life.



**Imani Branch, she/her (Director)**

is a Helen Hayes Award winning actress and senior Musical Theatre major. In 2019, she assistant-directed *Out of Clay* in the 8x10 Play Festival. This year she directed *Crunch* by Jade Scott. For more information visit [www.imanibranch.com](http://www.imanibranch.com)



**Devan Rolen, she/they (Stage Manager)**

is a junior Psychology major. *Crunch* is the second 8x10 production she has stage managed. She enjoys participating in the experience of helping the playwright's and the director's visions come to life and appreciates the entire *Crunch* crew!



**Sophia Early, she/her (Laurel)**

is a graduating senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Sykesville, MD. She is excited to participate in her second Howard Players 8x10 Festival! Sophia thanks the wonderful directors and the amazing playwrights that trusted her with their work.



**Di'Jhon Elexis, she/her (Diana)**

is a graduating senior Acting major from New Haven, Connecticut. She is elated to be a part of the Howard Players 8x10 Play Festival. She thanks God for this opportunity and dedicates this show to her supportive family and friends.

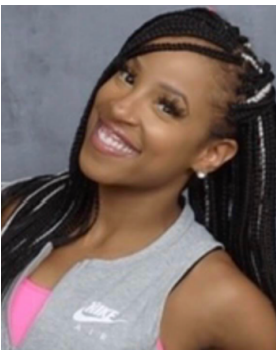


# revolution: an antilogy

**So a liberal and a leftist go to a protest....**  
***antilogy* noun. a contradiction in terms or ideas.**



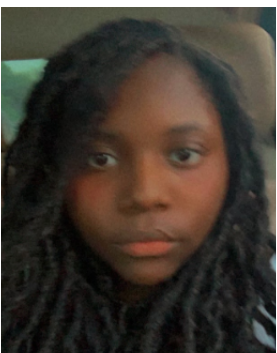
**Autumn Angelettie, she/her (Playwright & Director)**  
is a third-year Acting student, fourth-year Bison from Greater Philadelphia. *revolution* is Autumn's third 8x10 Directing credit, second 8x10 Playwriting credit, and first work of political theatre. Autumn dedicates this show to Walter Wallace Jr. and every victim of State Violence.



**Ka'Tia Hill, she/her (Stage Manager)**  
is a second year Acting major from Akron, Ohio. She serves as the Stage Manager for *revolution: an antilogy*. This is her first production with Howard Players and she is excited to be a part of the team.



**Alexandria Morgan, she/her (Assistant Stage Manager)**  
is a junior TV and Film major/French minor from Chicago, IL. This is her second year stage managing for the 8x10 Play Festival and she is excited to see all of the hard work and dedication that cast and crew have put into this production.



**Andrea Johnson, she/her (Amadi)**  
is a sophomore Electrical Engineering major from Willow Grove, PA. She will be playing "Amadi Jones" and hopes you enjoy the show!

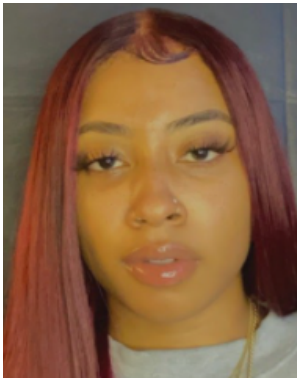
# revolution: an antilogy

**So a liberal and a leftist go to a protest....**  
***antilogy* noun. a contradiction in terms or ideas.**



**Ellison Estwick, she/her (Azad)**

is a sophomore Political Science major from the Washington Heights/Harlem area of New York. She goes by she/her/hers pronouns and is very excited to take part in her first 8x10 play.



**Jada Lenae, she/her (Radio Host)**

is a transfer Acting major from Los Angeles, California. Jada is very excited to be a part of this year's 8x10. She worked with Autumn Angelettie for *The Housewarming* last year. She shouts out her older brother Jonathan for bringing her into this great world of acting



**Alana McClellan, she/her (Radio Nigga)**

is a sophomore TV/Film major from Washington, D.C. She is an aspiring actress and cosmetologist. She wants everyone to remember to always be confident and love one another!! XOXO

# Rebirth 01

**3 women with unknown powers live at a critical corner of an ancient tradition. The hiddenness of their origin is slowly revealed as the party they host grows dark and uncertain.**



## Christian Ellis, any pronouns (Playwright)

is a 20 year old playwright and former Howard student from Dumfries, Virginia by way of Detroit, Michigan. Both his performance art and his writing incorporate poetry, music, and visuals to cultivate a multidimensional afrofuturistic experience.



## Amiah McGinty, she/her (Director)

is a sophomore Acting major at Howard. She has directed several other short works; however, this is her first time directing a virtual play. She has deeply valued this experience and is eager to continue exploring her love of directing.



## Zoë Schiller, she/her (Stage Manager)

is a freshman at Howard University. She is a Film and Television major and a first year Howard Player. This is her first production at Howard as a Stage Manager.



## Imani McFadden, she/her (Secret)

is a first year transfer Acting major at The Mecca. She has been in numerous productions but this is her first completely virtual production. She is excited to see what greatness is to come from her peers and hopes you enjoy the festival!

# Rebirth 01

**3 women with unknown powers live at a critical corner of an ancient tradition. The hiddenness of their origin is slowly revealed as the party they host grows dark and uncertain.**



**Adrienne M. Huggins, she/her (Mama)**

is excited to be a part of Howard Players 8x10 play festival. She is from NYC by way of St. Thomas U.S.V.I. She is a third-year transfer Acting major at Howard University. Adrienne hopes to be booked and busy when she graduates.



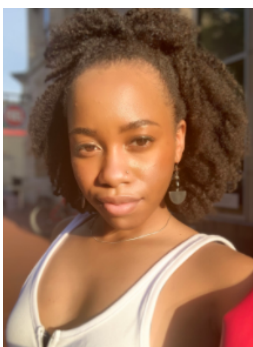
**Jordan Sharber, she/her (Stayn)**

is an Acting major from Bolingbrook, IL. She is super excited to make her debut in her first Howard Players production. Her other works include *Othello* and *Jekyll and Hyde*. She would like to thank the director, cast, and crew for making this such a wonderful experience!



**Jazmyn Roberson, she/her (Scar) is**

is a sophomore Acting major from Philadelphia. This is her second year in the 8x10 Play Festival. Jazmyn is excited to see her classmates perform and looks forward to more HP productions. She is grateful for her family's support.



**Adirah Robinson, she/her (Simma) is**

is an Acting major from Atlanta, GA. She is excited to be in her second Howard Players production after previously being in *Children of Killers*. Her other works include *Fences* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is honored to share this experience with such a talented cast.



# 3 - 2 - 3

**A throuple attempts to navigate their relationship while living in a world where polygamy has become the norm. They are figuring out each other, themselves, and where it all goes from here.**



## Lauren Smith, she/her (Playwright & Director)

is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from CT. Her performance credits include *Pippin* and *Urinetown: The Musical* at Howard University. She is thankful for her first self-written, self-directed play experience with the esteemed Howard Players organization!



## Sajada Heard, she/her (Stage Manager)

is a first year Acting student from Miami, FL. She is excited to be making her Howard Players debut as a stage manager for the show 3-2-3 written and directed by Lauren Smith.



## Courvaun Hill, he/him (Darius)

is a sophomore Human Development major from St. Louis, MO. He is excited to be in his second Howard Players production!



## Jazmyn Roberson, she/her (Dominique)

is a sophomore Acting major from Philadelphia. This is her second year being in the 8x10 Play Festival. Jazmyn is excited to see her classmates perform and looks forward to more HP productions. She is grateful for her family's support.



## Adirah Robinson, she/her (Audrey)

is an Acting major from Atlanta, GA. She is excited to be in her second Howard Players production after previously being in *Children of Killers*. Other works include *Fences* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She is honored to share this experience with such a talented cast.

# And Then There Were None

Three world leaders have a conference to discuss the fate of the world and its people. It is unclear which is more dangerous: the world-ending bacteria in the soil, or the divisive politics around the table.



**Lo Williams, she/her (Playwright & Director)**

is a junior Acting major, Secondary Education minor from Los Angeles, CA. She is a first time-Playwright, second-time Director, and long time fan of the 8x10 Play Festival. She thanks her cast, Stage Manager, and computer for everything!



**Ariana Russell, she/her (Stage Manager)**

is a sophomore, first year Acting major from Baltimore, Maryland. This is her second production at Howard University with the Howard Players. She is excited to be a part of the crew and the 8x10 festival as a whole.



**Camara Stampley, she/her (A)**

is a junior Musical Theatre major from Milwaukee, WI. Her most recent credits include Milwaukee Chamber Theater's *Stew*, We All Can Dunk's production of *The Pandemic*, & Howard University's *Pippin*! She is very excited to be working with Howard Players again!



**Andrea Johnson, she/her (B)**

is a sophomore Electrical Engineering major from Willow Grove, PA. She will be playing "B" and hopes you enjoy the show!



**Jasmyne Brown, she/her (C)**

is a sophomore Speech Pathology major from Durham, NC. This is her first time working with the Howard Players and she is very excited for everyone to see the play!

# The Guy

**A man makes a strange friend and loses his grip on reality under the weight of depression and artistic pressure.**



**Curtis Melrose, he/him (Playwright & Director)**

is a junior BFA Musical Theatre major from Houston, TX. His most recent credits are "King Charles" in Howard's *Pippin*, as well as previous 8x10 performances. He is making his Playwriting/Directing debut with *The Guy* and is so thankful to have worked with his amazing cast and crew!



**Zoë Bryant, she/her (Stage Manager)**

is a junior Musical Theatre major from Los Angeles, CA. She is so enthused to have the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful production such as *The Guy*. This is her second time stage managing and she is eager to learn more about the artform.



**Chafik Waddy, he/him (Guy)**

is a junior MT major from Philadelphia, PA. His recent credits are Howard's *Urinetown* as well as previous Howard Players productions. He is excited to be working with HP again, as well as his first lead HP role. He is thankful for the cast, crew, and Director/Playwright of *The Guy* for this opportunity.



**Camara Stampley, she/her (Shelle)**

is a junior Musical Theatre major from Milwaukee, WI. Her most recent credits include Milwaukee Chamber Theater's *Stew*, We All Can Dunk's production of *The Pandemic* & Howard University's *Pippin*! She is very excited to be working with Howard Players again!



**Patrick Hamilton, he/him (Preston)**

is a junior BFA Musical Theatre Major from Fresno, CA. His most recent credits include Howard University's production of *Pippin* and 2019 8x10 play festival winner, *Out of Clay*. He is so excited and grateful for this opportunity!



**Moses Princien, they/them (Stevie)**

is a Helen Hayes nominated actor for their recent role in *The Events* (Theater Alliance). They are currently in the process of obtaining a BFA in Musical Theatre from Howard University. The last shows you could have seen them in were Rainbow Theatre Project's *Blue Camp* and the first all black production of *Urinetown: The Musical* (Howard University).



# THE JUDGES



ADESOLA OSAKALUMI is a New York City based Actor/Director/Choreographer. Broadway: *Fela!*; *Equus*. Off-Broadway: *runboyrun*, *Syncing Inc*, *Skeleton Crew*, *Regional: Goddess*, (Powerhouse Theater), *In Your Arms* (Old Globe). Film: *Isn't It Romantic*, *IBRAHIM*, *Enchanted*, *Sex & The City*. TV: "Ice". Movement Director: *Coal Country*, *Cullad Wattah*, *Othello* (Public Theater). Choreographer: *Skeleton Crew*, *School of Rock* (Paramount Pictures), *Jam On The Groove* (Drama Desk Nominee).



DENNIS A. ALLEN II is from Hempstead, NY. His *The Mud is Thicker in Mississippi* won the 35th annual Off Off Broadway Samuel French festival in 2010. He received Atlantic Theater Company's inaugural 2014-15 Launch Commission; National Black Theatre's, 2016-17 I Am Soul Playwright Residency, and Clubbed Thumb's 2016-17 Early Career Writer's Group. He has developed plays with The Lark Play Development Center, the Classical Theatre of Harlem, The Fire This Time Festival, and more. He is an Associate Producer of The New Black Fest and received his MFA from Mac Wellman's Brooklyn College Playwriting program.



MCKENZIE FRYE is a multi disciplined artist from Detroit, MI and Howard University graduate with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. Off Broadway/Regional Credits include: *Syncing Ink*, *Wig Out!*, *Damn Yankees*, *Dreamgirls*, *River Deep* and *Harriet's Return* starring Debbie Allen. Film and TV credits include *wishing...*, *The Stronger*, *My Brother* and *Law & Order*. Workshops include: Katori Hall's *Pussy Valley* and *Girl Shakes Loose*. Ms. Frye is also a songwriter and choreographer with featured collaborations with FOLAMI and Nile Rodgers.



NSANGOU NJIKAM is an actor and playwright from Baltimore, MD. He is the author of *Syncing Ink*, *Re:Definition*, *I.D.*, *When We Left*, and *Search For The Crystal Stairs*. His work has been developed by The Public Theater, Penn State University, The Flea Theater, Hip Hop Theatre Festival, UNIVERSES theatre company, The New Black Fest, and the Alley Theater. His work focuses mainly on identity stories and the empowerment of the human spirit by recognizing and embracing one's personal gifts, utilizing Hip Hop theater, poetry, and West African performance aesthetics. He received his BFA in Acting from Howard University.





*up next*

THE HOWARD PLAYERS WILL SOON PRESENT...

# 21 STRINGS

A NEW WORK BY NSANGO NJIKAM

March 2021

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*Be sure to go to our website [www.thehowardplayers.org](http://www.thehowardplayers.org) for more information about the Howard Players' 2020-2021 Season.*

# SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the 8x10 Play Festival founder, **Maya Louise Shed**, for setting the precedent of what this show should uplift: community, art, and Black creators in a way that allows them to showcase their talents to audiences just like you.

To **Professor Ricky Ramón** for serving as the Howard Players advisor. His unrelenting dedication to the organization has continuously ensured our success. We thank him for every effort he has made for us.

To **Dr. Ofosuwa Abiola**, the Department of Theatre Arts Chair, for supporting us as we continue this growing legacy into the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

To our wonderful Howard Players alumna, **Sage Fortune**, who graciously served as our Play Selection Committee Alumni Member.

To **NSangou Njikam**, for his incredible gifts to the Howard Players this year, including his invaluable help with 8x10 on top of our partnership for the Spring 2021 Mainstage Production!

To **Jaida Gillespie**, the Chief Editor. Jaida was instrumental in the success of the show, and the quality of this production was achieved thanks to her efforts.

And last, but never least, thank you to...**YOU!** Without the patronage of people like you, these shows would not be possible. Your presence serves as an encouragement and reminder to these creators that their work has worth. You are our community and our organization would not be the same without your continuous support and participation. So, to all we say:

## THANK YOU!



# FOLLOW US ON *Social Media*



Instagram & Twitter: @HOWARDPLAYERSHU

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*and we hope you enjoyed the show!*

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